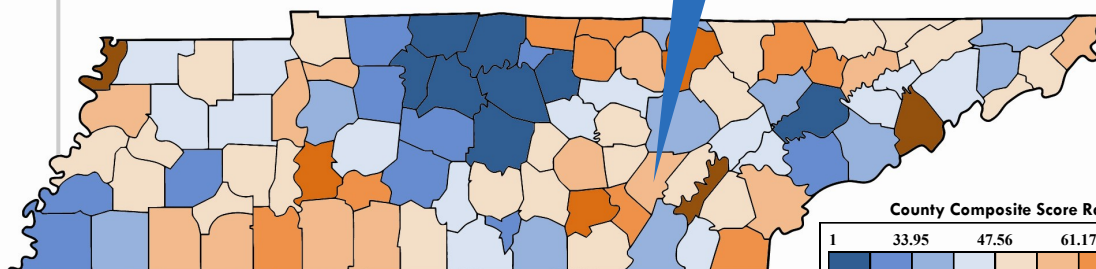


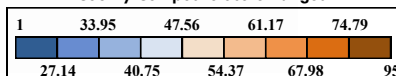
# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## SNAPSHOT: BLEDSOE COUNTY

2012



County Composite Score Ranges



Ranges defined as 0.5 standard deviations from the mean score of 47.56.

### INSIDE

Overview	Pg 1
Earnings & Employment	Pg 2
Education & Living	Pg 3
About the Council and this Report	Pg 4

Population (2010): 12,876

Pop. Density: 30/square mile

Seat of Government: Pikeville

Largest City: Pikeville

Down from 55th

COUNTY	RANK	INDICATOR SCORES & RANKINGS	DATA	RANK
Coffee	63	Employment and Earnings Composite	53.60	64 ▼
Crockett	64	Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females*	\$22,495	92 ▼
Haywood	65	Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Male Earnings)	80.22%	22 ▼
Marion	66	Female Labor Force Participation Rate (Ages 20-64)	58.3%	83 ▼
Decatur	67	Female Unemployment Rate (Ages 20-64)	8.8%	54 ▲
Wayne	68	Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	40.3%	17 ▲
Monroe	69	Economic Autonomy Composite	57	73 ▼
Benton	70	Women-owned Businesses Percent of Total	23.4%	47 ▼
Warren	71	Percent of Females with 4-Year Degree or More (Age 25+)	12.7%	54 ▲
Bledsoe	72	Percent of Females with High School Diploma or Equivalent (Age 25+)	78.3%	50 ▲
Lawrence	73	Female High School Dropout Rate	0.60%	73 ▼
Dyer	74	Percent of Women Uninsured (65 and under)	17.3%	75 ▼
Overton	75	Percent of Females Below Poverty Level	23.8%	75 ▲
Hardeman	76	Percent of Female-Headed Households with Children in Poverty*	58.9%	81 ▼
McNairy	77	Rate of Pregnancy for Girls Age 15-19 per 1000*	0	1 ▲
Grainger	78	County Overview: Bledsoe County has long struggled with unemployment and poverty among women. These indicators continued to worsen between 2000 and 2010, weighing down both educational and professional gains, and dragging the county downward to 72nd in overall rankings. Ballooning poverty among single mothers and shrinking access to affordable health care were among the county's largest detractors in 2010, following similar trends in in these indicators across Tennessee.		
Houston	79			
Johnson	80			
Clay	81			

Note: all figures are based on estimates formed from sample data and are subject to sample error and rounding.

\* The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual demographic survey of the U.S. It provides the detailed demographic, economic and housing data that was once supplied by the Decennial Census Long Form. The ACS has a smaller sample so combines several years' data to produce multi-year estimates. Due to the small sample size there is an increased margin of error in many less populated counties for this indicator.

\*\* The 2005 County by County figures were based on a sample of girls age 10-19, whereas the 2012 report reflects the population of girls age 15-19.

† ACS sampling sizes are insufficient to publish certain figures for this category. An estimate was developed from the performance of surrounding counties for the purposes of creating a composite score.

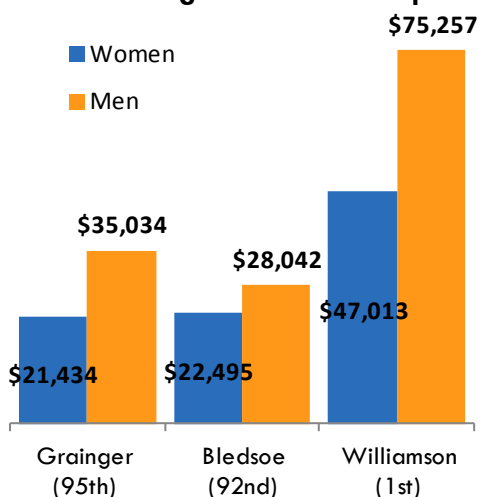
‡ Estimates are too unreliable or not available to be included in composite calculations. Any figure shown is an estimate for the reader's benefit only.

# The Status of Women in: Bledsoe County

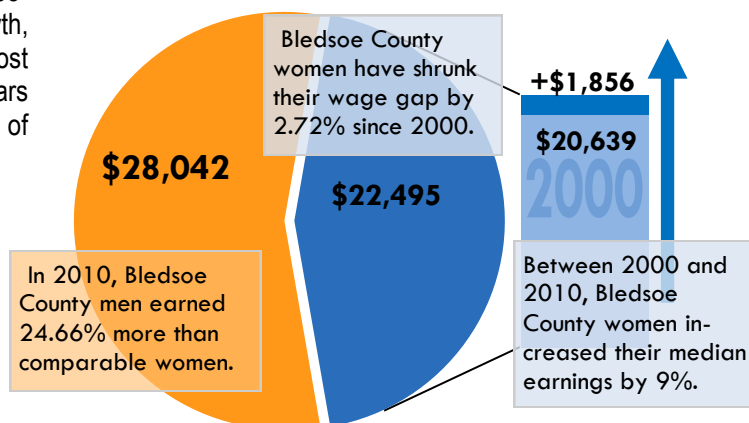
## ▼ Earnings

**B**ledsoe County women experienced a modest increase of nine percent in median income between 2000 and 2010. As a result of such slow growth, women in the county earned less in 2010 than almost all of their peers, despite being ranked 62nd ten years prior. This is particularly significant in the context of inflation, which grew nearly three times faster.

### Median Earnings: Counties Compared



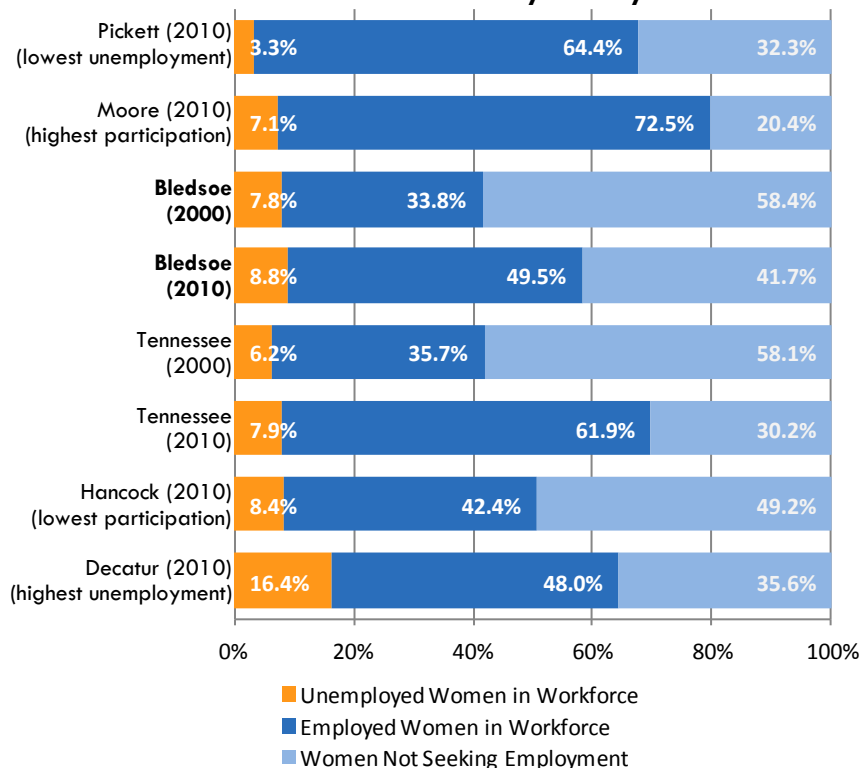
### Median Earnings and the Wage Gap, 2000-2010



**While** women in Bledsoe County lag behind most females statewide, they have made a slight gain on men in the county, diminishing their wage gap by 2.72 percent, and maintaining a relatively high rate of earnings compared with male contemporaries: 80.22 percent. This figure exceeded the state rate of 77 percent and was ranked 22nd, however, males in the county earn wages that ranked nearly dead last in the state, and both genders have likely experienced a decrease in spending power.

## ◆ Employment

### Workforce Access for Women By County and Year

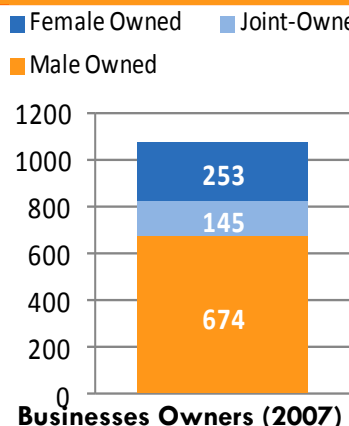


**Unemployment** rates among women in Bledsoe County were ranked 79th in 2000, but settled only slightly higher at 8.8 percent in 2010, a figure that earned Bledsoe the updated rank of 54th.

With high unemployment already present in the county, women joined the workforce at a slower rate than most counties. Of Bledsoe women ages 20-64, 58.3 percent were employed or seeking work in 2010. This fell significantly behind the statewide rate of 69.8 percent

Interestingly, women were almost 14 percent more likely than men in Bledsoe County to participate in the workforce in 2010. Women were less likely to be unemployed in 2010 than men, 11.5 percent of whom were estimated to be searching for work. Women with children under six years old were also jobless at a higher rate of 10.1 percent.

# The Status of Women in: Bledsoe County



**Bledsoe** County women were ranked 17th statewide when considering their portion of local managerial positions in 2010. This couples with participation rates to suggest that women are gaining greater prominence in Bledsoe's workforce. Unfortunately, this elevation in the workplace may not translate to economic strength. Low median income and health-care access figures from 2010 suggest that few of these are high-salary positions.

Women owned a smaller portion of the county's businesses in 2007 than they did in 2000, though they still influenced nearly half as sole- or joint-owners.

## Women At Work

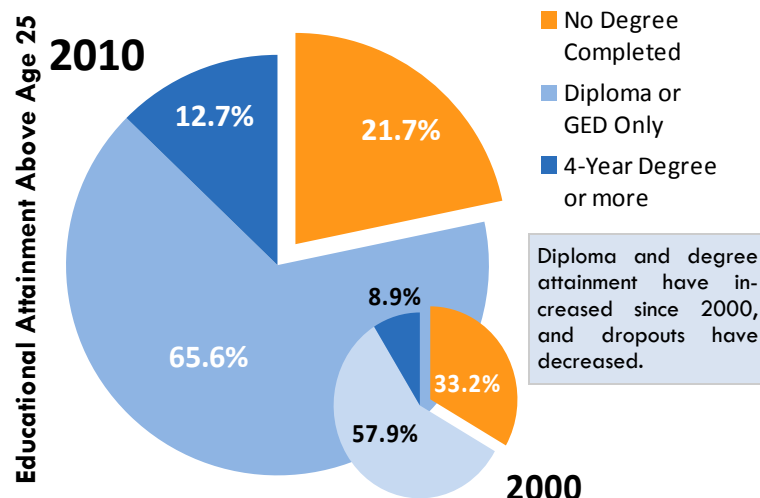
### Business Management

The incidence of women managers in Bledsoe County increased from 27.9% to 40.3% between 2000 and 2010.

### Business Ownership

However, the percentage of women business owners in the county dropped from 29.2% to 23.4% between 2000 and 2007.

## Education



**Academic** indicators improved across the board for Bledsoe County women between 2000 and 2010. The number of women holding four year degrees, for example, increased by over one-third (ranked 54th), with a similar percentage decrease showing in women holding no degree or diploma.

Notably, dropout rates followed statewide trends and plummeted from 7.4 percent in 2000 to 0.6 percent in the 11-12 school year—though this figure was still poorly ranked at 73rd.

Significantly more local women held diplomas in 2010 as well, improving Bledsoe County's ranking from 65th to 50th in that indicator.

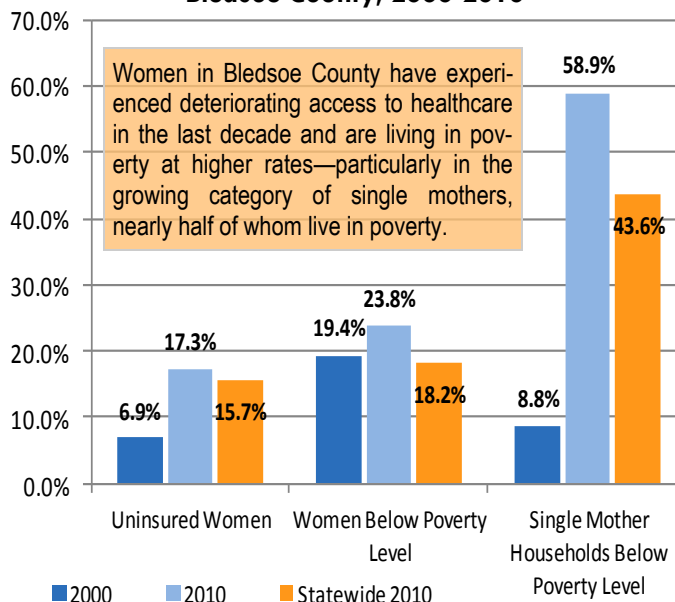
## Living

**Similar** to unemployment rates, women in Bledsoe County have endured higher rates of poverty than their peers in the state since before the year 2000. Because of the historically high rate, an increase of 4.4 percent in this category actually corresponded to a slight increase in rank, from 78th to 75th, though women in Bledsoe were still 5.6 percent more likely to live in poverty than statewide data suggests.

Following local and statewide trends, single mothers were particularly disadvantage, with nearly three-fifths of this population living in poverty in 2010 (ranked 81st). This is particularly important considering that the percentage of families headed by single mothers also increased by nearly one-third in this period, to include 23.4 percent of all Bledsoe households with children under 18 years old.

The number of women without health insurance in Bledsoe County more than doubled between 2000 and 2010, causing a deep slide from 30th to 75th in statewide rankings, and outpacing the statewide rate by 1.2 percent.

## Health and Poverty Indicators for Women: Bledsoe County, 2000-2010



# About the Council and this Report

The **Status of Women in Tennessee Counties** report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of management occupations held by women.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of women with any kind of health insurance, percentage of women living in poverty and percentage of single female-headed households living in poverty, the female high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

Research & Authorship by:

William Arth, Senior Research Manager &  
Julia Reynolds-Thompson, Fmr Research Analyst

Visit the Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Employment and Earnings	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics' *
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as Percent of Male Earnings)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Selected Economic Characteristics'
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Employment Status'
Percent of Management Occupations Held by Women	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months for Full-Time, Year-Round Civilian Employed Population, 16 year and older'
Economic Autonomy	
Women-Owned Businesses Percent of Total	U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners 'Statistics for All U.S. Firms by Industry, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race...' † ‡
Percent of Females with 4-Yr Degree or More (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Percent of Females with High School Diploma (Age 25+)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Educational Attainment'
Female High School Dropout Rate	Tennessee Department of Education, 2011-2012 School Year
Percent of Women Uninsured (65 or under)	U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
Percent of Women Below Poverty Level	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months'
Percent of Female-headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families' *
Rate of Pregnancy for Girls 15-19 (per 1000)	U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 'Fertility' *

Note: all figures are based on estimates formed from sample data and are subject to sample error and rounding.

\* The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual demographic survey of the U.S. It provides the detailed demographic, economic and housing data that was once supplied by the Decennial Census Long Form. The ACS has a smaller sample so combines several years' data to produce multi-year estimates. Due to the small sample size there is an increased margin of error in many less populated counties for this indicator.

\*\* The 2005 County by County figures were based on a sample of girls age 10-19, whereas the 2012 report reflects the population of girls age 15-19.

† ACS sampling sizes are insufficient to publish certain figures for this category. An estimate was developed from the performance of surrounding counties for the purposes of creating a composite score.

‡ Estimates are too unreliable or not available to be included in composite calculations. Any figure shown is an estimate for the reader's benefit only.